

# **Adult Education Services for Out – of – School Youth**

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## **Introduction**

The compulsory age for students attending K -12 public education programs is 18 or the student's class has graduated. Adult education programs have a responsibility to provide educational opportunities to adults and out-of school youth who have not graduated (Board Rule R277-733 -1- B, K). This is further clarified in Board Rule R277-733 - 6 - C "an out- of – school youth (minimum age of 16) who has not graduated from high school, may with parental/guardian written approval (if applicable) and school district administrative written approval, enroll in an adult education program".

## **Purpose**

It is important that students who make a conscious decision not to attend K-12 programs (leave school before graduation) be encouraged to "stay in school" and meet and complete the requirements necessary for a secondary school diploma. Completion of a secondary diploma allows a person broader opportunities for personal and professional economic lifetime gains.

"Adult education means organized public educational programs, other than regular full-time and summer elementary and secondary schools/programs/courses, provided by school districts or nonprofit organizations affording opportunities for out-of-school youth and adults who have or have not graduated from high school, to improve their literacy levels and to further their high school level education." Board Rule R277-733-1-B.

## **Local Program Responsibilities**

It is not the intent that adult education solicits K-12 students who are 16-18 years-of-age and have not graduated, to attend an adult education program.

Adult education programs must assure the local school district administration that they will not actively seek students who are enrolled in the K-12 programs:

- who may or may not have difficulty with attendance
- who may not be meeting with school success due to academics and/or behaviors
- who have been suspended or expelled from school due to safe school violations or other offenses
- who have or may have a documented disability and/or a special education Individualized Education Program (IEP) plan
- who may be in jeopardy of not successfully passing the UBSCT exit criteria

Students under the age of 18 who have not graduated from a K-12 program choosing to participate in an adult education program:

- Must provide written documentation of "not being enrolled" in a K-12 program with a letter of withdrawal signed by the superintendent/designee from the school district that oversees the adult education program to which the student is seeking admission.
- Must also provide written documentation of "not being enrolled" in a K-12 program with a letter of withdrawal signed by their parent or legal guardian.

The “out-of-school youth between the ages of 16 and 22 who have a special education Individualized Education Program (IEP) and have not graduated with either a K-12 or adult education secondary diploma (regardless of whether or not they have taken and passed the GED) are entitled to special education services provided through the local school district special education department; refer to Adult Education Students with Disabilities policy Tab E for procedures that must be followed by both school districts and community-based organizations.

"Out-of-school youth" can generate state funding as long as the above documentation is maintained in the adult education student's file and provided for state program monitoring reviews.

A student may choose to concurrently enroll in adult education program in addition to a K-12 education program. In this case, the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) must be credited to the adult education program Board Rule R277-733 -1-Q. This student cannot be reported for state funding purposes because the WPU generated “follows” the student in the adult education program up to 990 clock hours of membership; prorated for students enrolled part-time (the equivalent of 1 FTE per year) Board Rule R-277-733-6-A-B. The concurrently enrolled student may receive a K-12 traditional secondary diploma at the discretion on the local board of education.

“Out-of-school youth” students who choose to *re-enroll* in a K-12 program will be held accountable to all K-12 graduation requirements including UBSCT exit examination standards. Academic credits earned in an adult education program towards a K-12 diploma may or may not be accepted by the district at the discretion of the local board of education.

Note: adult education credits awarded to a student for passing the GED may not be applied to completion of a K -12 diploma.

"Out-of-school youth" adult education students, who are under the age of 18 attending an adult education program, will not be required to take and or pass the UBSCT and will not be allowed to graduate until their "traditional high school class year has graduated," unless the school district superintendent “waives” the compulsory age law and board rule, at which time the student is to be issued a diploma by the local board of education that states *Adult Education Secondary Diploma*.